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ABSTRACT

Designed to utilize basic skills and develop a vocational or vocational skills, eight adult basic education modules were developed which highlight authentic Blue Ridge Mountain crafts. Modules provide instruction in apple dolls, braided rugs, candles, caning, corn shuck dolls, pottery, quilting, and weaving (see Note). Selection of the crafts was based on the following criteria: cost to potential user of the module, level of skill needed to develop craft, and the current marketable potential of the craft. Prepared through a collaboration of project staff and local craftspeople, the modules contain historical backgrounds, equipment lists, procedural instructions, and step-by-step diagrams. Upon field testing, modules were rewritten to accomodate lower readability levels. Using the Fry readability formula, final module drafts range from 2.5 to 4.5 grade levels. A final copy of the module package includes an instructor's manual. While there are suggested classroom uses for the modules, they are designed for the student to use independently. (MEK)

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FINAL REPORT

Sharing the Arts of the Blue Ridge Mountains

Conducted by:

Pioneer Cooperative Educational Service Agency
Adult Education Office
Cleveland, Georgia 30528

February 1977 - January 1978

Adult Education Act of 1966
Section 309

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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The purpose of Pioneer CESA's "Sharing the Arts of the Blue Ridge Mountains" was to develop eight instructional modules for Adult Basic Education participants in the arts of the mountain people of northeast Georgia. These modules were to utilize basic skills and develop avocational or vocational skills.

The project staff has fulfilled that purpose and has available eight modules for dissemination. The modules provide instruction in the following areas:

Apple Dolls	Corn Shuck Dolls
Braided Rugs	Pottery
Candles	Quilting
Caning	Weaving

The eight crafts were selected by the project staff and an advisory committee. The advisory committee was comprised of craftsmen, AGE instructors, individuals affiliated with arts and crafts schools. In the selection process the following criteria was used: cost to potential user of module, level of skill needed to develop the craft, and the current marketable potential of the craft.

Once the eight crafts had been identified the project director began researching text materials and interviewing artists to identify the Blue Ridge Mountain origin of the craft and the various techniques employed to produce the same craft. The text research was to authenticate the craft to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the interviews were used to establish which techniques could be taught most effectively.

After authenticity and technique were determined, one or more local artists in each craft area were identified to serve as consultants in the module development. The artist gave the project director step-by-step directions for creating the craft and suggested areas where graphics should be used for further detail. Once the draft was completed on the module, the consultant edited to insure that the directions were correct and clear.

When all eight drafts were completed, the Pioneer CESA AGE classes piloted the modules. Forty students participated in the piloting. Each student completed crafts based on one or more of the modules. Each participant in the piloting completed an evaluation of the module. The evaluation included questions on their interest in the craft, the readability of the module, the technique employed and clarity of directions given. The project staff was pleased in the number of volunteers who participated as well as their enthusiasm for the modules.

In November, 1977, an evaluation team was invited to review the module drafts and make recommendations regarding the readability, format, and potential usability in the ABE classroom. The evaluation committee was composed of the advisory committee, craftsmen, AGE instructors, coordinators of AGE and the state coordinator of AGE.

Based on recommendations of students and evaluation team, the modules were rewritten to achieve a lower readability level. After the rewriting the Fry Readability Formula was applied to determine reading levels. The final module drafts range from 2.5 to 4.5 grade level.

During the months of December, 1977, and January, 1978, the project staff and local artists conducted three workshops (December 3, Marietta; January 7, Savannah; and January 14, Macon) for teachers and coordinators in the Georgia Adult General Education Program. The workshop was designed for the adult educators to have a hands-on experience working in the eight craft areas. The project staff conducted demonstrations and provided materials required to make seven of the crafts at the workshop site. Candles were not demonstrated because of safety.

The project staff was disappointed with the response to the workshops. There were sixty (60) participants at the three meetings.

The final copy of the module package includes in addition to the eight modules, an instructor's manual. The instructor's manual includes a brief synoposis of each module and a bibliography for each craft area. There are suggested uses for the modules in the classroom but the modules are designed for the student to be able to pick up and complete independent of any instructor assistance.

The program objectives for the project were as follows:

1. To research Blue Ridge Mountain arts and develop a minimum of eight (8) instructional modules. The selection will be based on cost, availability of supplies and equipment, and the time involved in the instructional process.

2. The project staff and local mountain artists will develop instructional modules geared to ABE students and an instructor's manual.

3. The project staff will develop bibliographies related to the instructional modules for student and instructor use.

4. The project staff will pilot the modules in three (3) of the Pioneer CESA ABE classes for evaluation and revision.

5. The project staff will conduct three statewide workshops for ABE instructors and coordinators to demonstrate the utilization of the instructional modules.

6. The modules will be available for statewide use by all AGE programs for the cost of printing.

The project staff is confident they have met the objectives fully and feel that you the reader will agree with us. At the beginning of the project, a time table was established for the twelve month project. Even though some time block were not sufficient for the task, the modules were available for dissemination in final form on January 31, 1978, the closing date of the project.

Each adult education class in the Pioneer CESA district will have a complete set of the modules and the staff and administration are committed to providing the ABE student with a new way for self expression through the crafts of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Blue Ridge Mountains Project Staff

Lamar Gailey	Coordinator of Adult Education
Martha Holman	Project Director
Annie O'Neal	Lead Piloting Instructor
Donna Black	Secretary
Bob Nichols	Graphics Artist

Consultants	Craft Area
Margaret Owens	Apple Dolls
Ethel Ledford	Braided Rugs
Joe Kennedy	Candles
B. C. Cranford	Caning
Lenore Carnes	Corn Shuck Dolls
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Tribble	Pottery
Esther Witt	Quilting
Dorothy Capps	Weaving
Helen Greear	Weaving

Advisory Committee

Mary Nikas	Director, Hambidge Center, Dillard, Ga.
Ruby Nuckolls	AGE Instructor, Pioneer CESA
Billie Sue Smith	Language Arts/Reading Consultant Pioneer CESA
Sister Catherine Concannon	AGE Instructor, Pioneer CESA
Xavier Roberts	Director, Unicoi Craft Center Helen, Ga.
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Tribble	Tribble's Tree House, Helen, Ga.

Blue Ridge Mountains Project

Financial Summary

Project Director	11,801.48	
Part-time Salaries		
Secretary (¼-time)	1,676.09	
Instructors	5,891.47	
Consultants	1,010.76	20,379.80
Project Staff & Consultant Travel	1,999.09	1,999.09
Instructional Materials	2,114.78	2,114.78
In-Service	1,119.80	1,119.80
Capital Outlay	834.08	834.08
Miscellaneous Other		
Fringe Benefits	2,762.87	
Telephone	301.51	
Office Supplies	483.39	3,547.77
Total		29,995.32